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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 8 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 3 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 1.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 44 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 763 billion ton-miles, 5.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended November 3 totaled 487,449 cars, 4.3 percent below 1978, and 0.8 percent lower that the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 6.1 percent in the East, 3.8 percent in the South, and 3.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings recorded a gain of 4,242 cars, or 3.8 percent, and loadings of grain were up 2,580 cars, or 8.8 percent. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were down 5,771 cars, or 20.6 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 27 totaled 38,173 cars, down 2.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 68,495 trailers and/or containers, 2.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 43 weeks of the year was 1,549,337, 1.9 percent higher than last year, and 2,735,695 trailers and/or containers, up 4.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/3.[1]

	Loadings in Week ended November 3, 1979	Change from Corresponding Week 1978		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	31,856	I 2,580	8.8	D 707	2.2
Other farm products	5,656	D 2,523	30.8	D 444	7.3
Metallic ores	33,204	I 765	2.4	I 550	1.7
Coal	115,786	I 4,242	3.8	D 1,326	1.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,437	D 5,104	22.6	D 258	1.5
Nonmetallic minerals	15,532	D 930	5.6	D 2,042	11.6
Grain mill products	18,619	D 1,861	9.1	D 344	1.8
Food and kindred products	19,432	D 1,158	5.6	D 632	3.1
Primary forest products	20,836	D 1,352	6.1	D 735	3.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,228	D 1,874	14.3	D 67	0.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,187	I 402	1.8	I 169	0.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,523	D 355	1.2	I 413	1.5
Petroleum products	5,883	D 1,301	18.1	D 88	1.5
Stone, clay and glass products	19,062	D 1,207	6.0	D 644	3.3
Coke	5,695	D 1,930	25.3	D 100	1.7
Metals and products	19,640	D 397	2.0	I 2,060	11.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,247	D 5,771	20.6	I 329	1.5
Waste and scrap materials	13,829	D 587	4.1	I 563	4.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	13,169	D 592	4.3	D 6	0.0
All other carloads	47,236	D 2,895	5.8	D 475	1.0
LCL traffic	392	D 129	24.8	D 35	8.2
Total Cars Loaded	487,449	D 21,977	4.3	D 3,819	0.8
Corresponding week of 1978	509,426				

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (44 weeks)	20,366,994	19,718,989	I 3.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
43 weeks cumulative	744.2	704.3	I 5.7
Week ended November 3	18.3	18.6	D 1.8
44 weeks cumulative	762.5	722.9	I 5.5

[1] The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

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